SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 10 through 16, with the following amended paragraph:

--In a conventional stone slicer, a circular shank for slicing stone thinly or to a predetermined thickness has been employed. The conventional circular shank has a thickness of 5 to 6 mm, and 8 to 8.5 mm thick diamond tips must be overcoated thereon to allow slicing. The amount of stone consumed is approximately 30% of rough stone. Thus, ~~since~~ the slicing cost becomes high and a considerable cost is also required in treating stone sludge produced during slicing. Hence, the stone slicing work is burdensome and has low efficiency.--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following amended paragraph:

--As shown in FIG. ~~6~~ 7, in the stone slicer according to the present invention, in a state in which the platforms 30 and 30' are raised, stone S is placed on a base 10 and then the platforms 30 and 30' are lowered at the same speed to rotate the belt saws 70 in an endless track manner. Then, the belt saws 70 contact the top surface of the stone S, which is then sliced by means of the slicing tips 74, producing slots. As the platforms 30 and 30' gradually fall down, the belt saws 70 are lowered to slice the stone S. Thus, the stone S is vertically sliced at once in conformity with the interval between the belt saws 70. In the present invention, since the belt saws 70 are only 3 mm in thickness, the amount of stone sliced

away and consumed is greatly reduced, increasing productivity by approximately 50% compared to the conventional circular shank type stone slicer.--